

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the amount of codes generated during re-coding in conversion of a first bitstream obtained by efficient coding of a moving-picture video signal to a second bitstream, the method comprising the steps of:

extracting, from the first bitstream, ~~at least either~~ information on code amount ~~or~~ and information on quantization, as ~~a parameter~~ parameters indicating moving-picture coding difficulty;

~~obtaining, from the parameter per given period,~~ an amount of quasi-generated codes which is estimated to be required for achieving a given picture quality, per given period, based on a product of the code amount and a quantization level obtained from the information on quantization;

adjusting the amount of quasi-generated codes for each given period to obtain a target code amount;

assigning the target code amount to a given portion of the moving-picture video signal so that a total code amount of the given portion of the moving-picture video signal matches a recordable total code amount for a storage medium for storing the given portion of the moving-picture video signal; and

re-coding the first bitstream while performing code amount control in accordance with the target code amount, thus converting the first bitstream into the second bitstream to be recorded in the storage medium.

2. (Currently Amended) A moving-picture recording method comprising the steps of:

recording a first bitstream obtained by efficient coding of a moving-picture video signal in a first storage medium, under code amount control for targeting a given fixed transfer bit rate;

extracting, from the first bitstream, ~~at least either~~ information on code amount ~~or~~ and information on quantization, as a ~~parameter~~ parameters indicating moving-picture coding difficulty;

~~obtaining, from the parameter per given period,~~ an amount of quasi-generated codes which is estimated to be required for achieving a given picture quality, per given period, based on a product of the code amount and a quantization level obtained from the information on quantization;

adjusting the amount of quasi-generated codes for each given period to obtain a target code amount;

assigning the target code amount to a given portion of the moving-picture video signal so that a total code amount of the given portion of the moving-picture video signal matches a recordable total code amount for a second storage medium for storing the given portion of the moving-picture video signal; ~~and~~

re-coding the first bitstream to convert the first bitstream into a second bitstream having a variable bit rate while performing code amount control in accordance with the target code amount; and

recording the second bitstream in the second storage medium at the variable bit rate.

3. (Currently Amended) A moving-picture code amount control apparatus comprising:

an information extractor to extract ~~at least either~~ information on code amount ~~or~~ and information on quantization, as ~~a parameter~~ parameters indicating moving-picture coding difficulty, from a first bitstream obtained by efficient coding of a moving-picture video signal, and obtain, ~~from the parameter per given period,~~ an amount of quasi-generated codes which is estimated to be required for achieving a given picture quality, per given period, based on a product of the code amount and a quantization level obtained from the information on quantization;

a target code amount setter to adjust ~~an~~ the amount of quasi-generated codes for each given period to obtain a target code amount and assign the target code amount to a given portion of the moving-picture video signal so that a total code amount of the given portion of the moving-picture video signal matches a recordable total code amount for a storage medium for storing the given portion of the moving-picture video signal; and

an encoder to re-code the first bitstream while performing code amount control in accordance with the target code amount, thus converting the first bitstream into a second bitstream to be recorded in the storage medium.

4. (Currently Amended) A moving-picture recording apparatus comprising:

a first recorder to record a first bitstream obtained by efficient coding of a moving-picture video signal in a first storage medium, under code amount control for targeting a given fixed transfer bit rate;

an information extractor to extract, from the first bitstream, ~~at least either~~ information on code amount ~~or~~ and information on quantization, as ~~a parameter~~ parameters indicating moving-picture coding difficulty, and obtain, ~~from the parameter per given period,~~ an amount of quasi-generated codes which is estimated

to be required for achieving a given picture quality, per given period, based on a product of the code amount and a quantization level obtained from the information on quantization;

a target code amount setter to adjust ~~an~~ the amount of quasi-generated codes for each given period to obtain a target code amount and assign the target code amount to a given portion of the moving-picture video signal so that a total code amount of the given portion of the moving-picture video signal matches a recordable total code amount for a second storage medium for storing the given portion of the moving-picture video signal;

a bitstream convertor to re-code the first bitstream while performing code amount control in accordance with the target code amount, thus converting the first bitstream into a second bitstream having a variable transfer bit rate; and

a recorder to recode the second bitstream in the second storage medium at the variable transfer bit rate.